

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An animal tagging and identification electronic button tag comprising a transponder arranged to uniquely identify an animal in a group of animals, capable of being programmed, enclosed in a shell, said shell comprising ~~an open ended or a~~ blind axial transverse passage ~~for receiving a fixing means to a punch of a male tag panel to fix the shell to an [[the]] ear of the animal, wherein the shell is made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell and an upper half-shell, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to the axial transverse passage-opening for the fixing means, and the transponder is enclosed within the two half-shells;~~

wherein the upper half-shell comprises a sleeve with a ~~blind~~ central opening around the median axis, ~~which opening forms part of the axial transverse passage of the shell, wherein the sleeve being formed by a cylindrical wall which projects outwards on from~~ a planar wall of the upper half-shell and is extended by an inner cylindrical wall below said planar wall to connect with a corresponding [[lower]] ~~inner~~ cylindrical wall on the lower half-shell, the planar wall of the upper half-shell being connected [[on]] ~~at its periphery to an vertical outer cylindrical wall for connecting it connection~~ to the lower half-shell; and

wherein the [[lower]] ~~inner~~ cylindrical wall of the lower half-shell has ~~an opening with a conical form, which opening forms part of the axial transverse passage of the shell, [[with]] and an upper shoulder enabling [[the]] a tip of the punch of a male panel tag to be locked into the shell; [[and]]~~

wherein the sleeve is blind on the upper half-shell.

2. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the two half-shells are provided with complementary internal and external walls of the two half-shells; contributing contribute to their assembly, [[to]] stiffen the shell and [[to]] fix the internal transponder in place.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein; the inner cylindrical wall of the lower half-shell comprises a lower cylindrical inner wall is positioned around [[its]] a median axis corresponding to that of the sleeve of the upper half-shell and providing the transverse passage, and

that the lower cylindrical inner wall is provided with an internal projection,

[[that]] the lower cylindrical inner wall half shell includes is provided with a projecting peripheral rim which cooperates with the orthogonal peripheral outer cylindrical wall of the upper half-shell.

5. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 4, wherein including an internal projection extending from a planar wall of the lower half shell and positioned [[is]] placed between the lower internal inner cylindrical wall of the lower half shell and the peripheral rim.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim [[4]] 5, wherein the internal projection is of a lesser height than the distance between the planar wall of the upper half-shell and an opposite planar wall of the lower half-shell.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the ends of the vertical inner and outer cylindrical walls of the upper half-shell are provided with flux cores [[(10)]].

10. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein a processor of the transponder is folded down onto a coil, the processor being fixed into position by a glue.

11. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 9, wherein the flux cores are laser welded.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the lower half-shell is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into [[the]] an external shoulder of the vertical outer cylindrical wall of the upper half-shell.

13. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle, the button tag including:
a shell; and
a transponder which is[[.]] capable of being programmed, the transponder being enclosed in [[a]] the shell;
wherein:
the shell [[being]] includes composed of a first shell portion and a second shell portion which are assembled together at a median plane, the transponder [[is]] being enclosed without compression between the two shell portions and attached to the shell using an adhesive; [[and]]
the two shell portions are assembled by means of a laser weld; [[, and]]
[[.]] the second shell portion including includes a sleeve with a central opening around a median axis, said sleeve [[is]] being blind, [[and]] projects projecting outwards from one side of a planar wall of the second shell portion and [[is]] being extended by a cylindrical wall extending from an opposite side of said planar wall to connect with a cylindrical wall of the first shell portion, a planar wall of the first shell portion being connected at its periphery to the second shell portion;
and

wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are laser welded; and
the walls of the two shell portions contribute to their assembly, stiffen the shell and fix the internal transponder in place.

14. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 13 wherein the cylindrical wall of the first shell portion provides a passage for a punch of a male tag for fixing the tag to the ear of an animal, said cylindrical wall of the first shell portion having a conical form and providing a shoulder within the sleeve to enable [[a]] the tip of the punch of a male tag to be locked in[[n]] the sleeve.

15. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14, wherein an internal projection is located between the cylindrical wall and a peripheral rim of the second shell position portion, the internal projection being of a height less than the distance between the planar walls of the first and second shell portions.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 13, wherein the first shell portion is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of [[the]] a peripheral wall of the second shell portion.

20. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein a processor of the transponder is located on a coil, the processor being fixed into position by the adhesive.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle comprising:

a transponder, capable of being programmed, enclosed within a shell, the shell [[is]] being made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell and an upper half-shell, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to [[the]] an axial passage opening for receiving [[the]] a fixing means, the two half-shells [[are]] being provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place, wherein the upper half-shell has a sleeve with a central opening around the median axis, which central opening forms an open-ended or blind axial passage for a fixing means to the ear of an animal part of the axial passage opening, and wherein a cylindrical wall extends below a [[said]] planar wall of the upper half-shell to connect with a corresponding lower cylindrical wall on the lower half-shell, the planar wall of the upper half shell being connected at [[on]] its periphery to a vertical outer cylindrical wall connecting it to the lower half-shell, and wherein the transponder is fixed in place without compression between the two half-shells using a glue, the two half-shells [[are]] being assembled by means of a laser weld; and

wherein ends of the cylindrical vertical walls of the upper half-shell are provided with flux cores.

24. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the lower cylindrical wall is provided with an internal projection that is provided by a projecting includes a peripheral rim cooperating with an orthogonal peripheral wall of the upper half-shell.

25. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 24, wherein an internal projection is placed positioned between the lower cylindrical wall and the peripheral rim.

26. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 24, wherein the internal projection is of a lesser height than the distance between the planar wall of the upper half-shell and an opposite planar wall of the lower half shell.

27. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the lower cylindrical wall has a conical form with an upper shoulder enabling a tip of a punch of a male panel tag to be locked into the shell.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein a processor of the transponder is folded down onto the coil, the processor being fixed into position by the glue.

30. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the flux cores are laser welded.

31. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the two half-shells have substantially a same radius about [[a]] the median axis.